

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02030 010749Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 ACDA-12 /116 W
-----071999 010758Z /11

R 280936Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6079
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
CINCEUR
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2030

PACOM AND EUCOM FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR MARR XA UR US PK
SUBJECT: SOMALI MINISTER'S ACCOUNT OF SITUATION IN OGADEN

1. IN CONTEXT OF A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN
THE HORN OF AFRICA, FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ VOLUNTEERED
TO FILL ME IN ON DETAILS OF CONVERSATIONS HIGH-LEVEL
PAKISTANI OFFICIAL SHAD DURING THE LAST 48 HOURS WITH
SOMALIA'S INFORMATION MINISTER, WHO STOPPED IN PAKISTAN
ENROUTE PEKING. PREDICTABLY, THE SOMALI GAVE SELF-SERVING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02030 010749Z

VIEW OF SITUATION IN TERMS LARGELY FAMILIAR TO ADDRESSEES.

2. DRAWING FROM GOP RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS, FONSEC
PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS:

A. SOMALI MINISTER CRITICIZED U.S. POLICY ON THE

SITUATION IN THE HORN AS "VAGUE."

B. ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, SOMALI SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD CONSISTENTLY DISPUTED THE NUMBER OF CUBANS INVOLVED IN HELPING ETHIOPIA, BELIEVING EACH NEW U.S. ASSESSMENT TO BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. CUBANS NOW HAVE 15,000 MEN IN ETHIOPIA, NOT THE 10-11,000 ESTIMATED TO BE THERE BY THE LATEST U.S. ESTIMATES. HE NOTED THAT WHEN CASTRO HAD VISITED SOMALIA LAST YEAR, THE CUBAN LEADER HAD LAUGHED AT U.S. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA, SAYING THERE HAD BEEN 30,000 THERE, NOT THE 15,000 ALLEGED BY THE U.S. AT THE TIME.

C. CUBANS, SOMALI ASSERTED, ARE NOT IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE OGADEN, HOWEVER. THEY ARE PROVIDING ARTILLERY CREWS FOR LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY NOW BEING USED, INCLUDING 130MM, AND ARE PROVIDING SOME OF THE AIR COVER, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS.

D. APART FROM PROVISION OF AN OVERALL BATTLEFIELD COMMANDER, THE RUSSIANS, SOMALI ALLEGED, ARE MANNING TANKS ON A RATIO OF 3 RUSSIANS TO 1 ETHIOPIAN PER TANK CREW; THEY ARE TAKING GREAT PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP SOMALIS FROM VERIFYING THIS EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF HAVING OTHER TANKS CONVERGE TO PROTECT ANY TANK WHICH IS DASEMBLED WHILE CUBANS IN HELICOPTERS EVACUATE DEAD AND SURVIVORS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 02030 010749Z

E. HE CHARACTERIZED THE BATTLES IN THE OGADEN AS HEAVILY "MECHANIZED," WITH LOTS OF ARTILLERY TOO; THE SHORTAGE ON THE ETHIOPIAN SIDE, HE SAID, IS INFANTRY TO MAKE GOOD THE GAINS THE TANKS MAKE. AS SOON AS THE TANKS PASS THROUGH, THE TERRITORY COMES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SOMALIS AGAIN. THE SOVIETS, HE SAID HAVE PROVIDED T-62 TANKS AND MIG-23 AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS (WITH 25 TUBES).

F. SOVIET OBJECTIVE WAS ORIGINALLY TO PREVENT THE IMMINENT OVERTHROW OF THE MARXIST MENGHISTU REGIME BUT HAS NOW BROADENED TO INCLUDE TOPPLING SIAD BARRE AND THE CAPTURE OF THE NORTHERN HALF OF SOMALIA. THIS WOULD THREATEN DJIBOUTI AND BRING CLOSER THE DAY OF EFFECTIVE SOVIET CONTROL OVER BOTH SIDES OF THE RED SEA AT BAB AL-MANDEB. IT IS FUTILE, THE SOMALI SAID, TO SEEK SOVIET OR ETHIOPIAN GUARANTEES THAT SOMALIA'S BORDERS WILL NOT BE BREACHED.

G. SOMALIS, HE SAID, OPPOSE ANY RECOURSE TO THE UNSC. PREFERRING AN ACTIVE OAU ROLE. AS FOR A SETTLEMENT, SOMALIA PROPOSES (1) AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE; (2) AN INTERNATIONAL

GUARANTEE THAT THE CEASEFIRE WILL NOT BE VIOLATED; (3) WITHDRAWAL OF ALL "FOREIGN TROOPS" FROM THE OGADEN (GOP THOUGHT THIS INCLUDED SOMALIS AS WELL AS CUBANS AND SOVIETS BUT WAS UNCERTAIN IF ETHIOPIANS WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW); AND, (4) NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED LEADING TO A SOLUTION IN WHICH THERE IS SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE OGADEN. SOMALIA, HE ADDED, WOULD BE PREPARED TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH ETHIOPIA AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL IF NIGERIA PROPOSES SUCH A GATHERING.

H. ON FOREIGN HELP THE SOMALIS ARE NOW RECEIVING, THE SOMALI SAID ONLY THE EGYPTIONAS ARE PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL EQUIPMENT; SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN ARE PROVIDING MAINLY MONEY WITH WHICH TO PURCHASE ARMS. NEITHER IRAQ NOR SYRIA, HE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 02030 010749Z

SAID, ARE BEING PERMITTED BY THE SOVIETS TO RENDER ANY SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO THEIR BRETHREN IN SOMALIA.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY SHANAWAZ SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS ALSO "PUZZLED" BY LACK OF U.S. REACTION TO SOVIET POWER-GRAB IN THE HORN AND IN THE BAB AL-MANDEB AREA; IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE U.S. ATTITUDE.

4. AMBASSADOR THANKED FONSEC FOR BRIEFING ON WHAT SOMALI HAD SAID. AS FOR U.S. POLICY, AMB MADE POINT THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFRONTATION, PRECEDED BY A CEASE-FIRE AND A WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. WE BELIEVE, MOREOVER, THAT AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE THE SCENE OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT BY PROXY, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH THE OAU (AND TALKING DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIETS, THE SOMALIS, AND THE ETHIOPIANS, AS WELL AS WITH THE ARABS AND OUR OTHER FRIENDS IN SOMALIA'S CORNER) TO PRODUCE THIS RESULT.

5. MUCH OF THE ABOVE DUPLICATES INFORMATION ALREADY HELD IN WASHINGTON FROM OTHER SOURCES, BUT WE FORWARD IT ON THE CHANCE THAT SOMETHING UNIQUE MAY BE FOUND IN IT. HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY EXERCISES, BORDER INCIDENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA02030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780093-0567
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978025/aaaaadla.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ac4f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3579307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI MINISTER'S ACCOUNT OF SITUATION IN OGADEN
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, PINT, PDEV, XA, PK, UR, CU, US, (ABDI KASSIM SALAD)
To: STATE MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ac4f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014